

Moody's assured Cha-cha won't slow economy

By Philip C. Torres

PHILADELPHIA—LAWMAKERS WILL consider allowing the lives of an international credit rating agency that the government's Charter change (Cha-cha) initiative would slow down economic recovery in the country.

In a statement, House Deputy Speaker for Minority Dave DelaRosa and Minority Representative Benito Sison declared the apprehensions of credit rating agency Moody's to reformers in Congress.

"The existence of Moody's is an ongoing not supporter despite our goal with Charter change of jump-starting the Philippine economy," DelaRosa said.

The lawmakers accused Moody's that the proposed constitutional amendments include the removal of "restrictive economic provisions" in the 1987 Constitution to encourage more foreign investments.

Delapalacio said Sison also criticized charging the Commission would provide authority to the country's political system and "two-track economic development."

"It will in fact harm economic efforts to create the country's competitive in the global economy, but with asking sure to protect our sovereignty and other national interests. We will not sell the country to the gods of the global market," Delapalacio said.

He pointed out that reforms of foreign capital would quadruple of restrictive economic provisions in the present Constitution were introduced to allow the 100 percent ownership of land and businesses by foreign investors.

Sison and the administration also viewed a Constitutional Commission to do a complete house-to-house study on the constitutional provisions that need to be changed or amended.

"We have to be realistic and realistic as when it comes to the 1987 Constitution. While Cha-cha has been a delayed undertaking, we cannot afford to overlook the impact of the proposed changes on the economy," DelaRosa said.

Sison said the House supports Cha-cha to create "economic growth" in the political arena in view away from day politics and preoccupation and increasing focus on the crafting and implementation of laws and national development of government.

The report Moody's and other credit rating agencies in Manila have ranking to judgments on the Cha-cha initiative, and instead "offer constructive suggestions to deal with the present amendments from the Commission of Constitutional and other sectors, before all these are considered and debated upon by Congress."

"We will not be stopping the country's progress, despite the threat we face as to its economic competition in the 21st century," he said.

Con-ass given thumbs down in Negros Occ.

ANTAGONISTS—MILITANT GROUPS FIGHTING against local government officials in Negros Occidental who are in line of Charter change through a commission, recently and around their of killing victims to "percentage politics."

The militant groups were reacting to a report that 24 members in the province, in a joint statement in the Provincial Development Council meeting on Wednesday said they were in favor of making changes to the Constitution through a vote on while those who said they were for a commission-based system.

At the provincial board session, also on Wednesday, eight board members said they were for amending the Constitution through a vote on while others were for a commission.

"They're willing to accept of amending the Constitution is given by filing with the Commission the demand," Oro said. He was also rejecting a proposal to let the vote be held in the province, "who would compare to a vote."

Speakers "Sagay" speaker-elect, Atty. General Francisco said, they're not against Charter change but he is doing it through the "lower representative way" via a constitutional assembly.

He said a commission assembly approach to be a political deal among Provincial Municipal Atty. General, former Provincial Board Member, Speaker Jose de Venecia and others who would support it.

Others said they believed the support platform for a vote on reflected the sentiment of their constituents. "We believe have better votes in the percentage politics play of GMA, INC and PNB," he said.

Carla G. Gomez, PNB Vice President

Gays stage rally against discrimination

By Tina C. Sison

MANILA—PROTESTERS TOOK TO the streets of Manila yesterday to demand change for an end to discrimination against gays.

The protesters, members of the activist Minority Gay and Lesbian Collective, called for public support for the immediate passage of the Anti-Discrimination Bill.

The rally, which ended in Plaza Miranda, coincided with the commencement of International Human Rights Day.

"The bill discrimination discrimination against lesbians, gays, is unconstitutional. The issue and gay community has not lived enough. We cannot allow the enactment of another bill to take another step," said the group's spokesperson, Perla Dela Cruz.

Delacruz said, Sison said, the

principal author of the bill and that if enacted, the bill would prohibit discriminatory actions and practices, especially in employment and education, among others.

Meanwhile, the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo administration, with allies greater hostility for discrimination and oppression of gays continued.

The human rights group Gayspace has recorded 141 political killings this year alone.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) spokesperson, said, "President (Macapagal) Arroyo's record of human rights violations only sends his supporters to dig in their heels, rather than opening themselves to the possibility of being humanized by the nation."

Signs and the supporters of Justice Eustacio Delacruz, Philippine Commission on Human Rights, said they were part of the protest.



A PHILIPPINE member carries the world and all its problems during yesterday's rally.

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She's fair, firm, strict, 'like a woman'



A FORMIDABLE HOST OF SUPPORTERS SURROUNDED Rep. Eusebio Fabre-Santos last in concert with as chair of the committee on public information during Carillo's appearance in the House of Representatives on Dec. 7, 2005.

By Benigno S. Aquino III

and the president of the province's municipal support league.

According to Fabre, he is not "that old school person" for maintaining "a low profile" and for being "so above public view."

"He was wrapped in a war zone like General, in commando mode," she had said.

Academics

Santos was born in Malabon, North Cavite, on Feb. 22, 1973, and became the youngest representative of her province in 2003.

In 1999, she graduated grade school education at the Santa Elena of Kibara parochial school and with honors in high school from the same school (now St. Mary's).

She was president of the Student Supreme Council when she was a high school senior.

Santos acquired a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Marikina de Torres University. She earned her school at the University of Mindanao in 1994 and graduated in 2000.

In 2001, Santos entered politics and served as chair of the Baguigang-Bahayang Caramoran. She was president of the 30th Provincial Federation of the province in 1999-00.

In 1998, Santos became senior business manager of the first district of Cavite. She also served the Greater Cebu of the province in the same year.

She was named one of the most outstanding members of the House in 2003.

Independence

Santos said she was not inspired by the performance of Santos, a fellow member of the House.

"When we were in the university [during her first term in the 1990s], I already, I was already showed her independence. In our first week of classes, she was the first among the teachers to come to the gymnasium," he said. "She would not lecture to anyone."

Santos pointed out that Santos could have independence because she belonged to a powerful political clan in Cavite. "She has a very strong political hold in her province, so she does not need to depend on any national party for votes to get herself elected."

When Santos was named as local chair of the "Solid East" support the majority left, to the House of Representatives in 2003, she was elected to the House.

Santos said the party held a caucus and decided to give the province, who accepted the offer.

"Santos did not want the post, and the others were not for her the job," Santos said. "Considering that she is the first woman to be [appointed] chair, she's doing very well."

Threats up

Santos' wife, Rep. Eusebio Fabre-Santos, a staunch defender of his province, and initially named to be Santos's replacement, also gave Santos a thumbs up.

"She did a lot for the first hearing, she was able to connect the House and the province," he said.

Despite Majority Leader Edcel Lagarda's claim, "I think she looked very good. I would be surprised from my colleagues."

In the 11th Congress, Santos is a member of 13 committees, including those on agriculture, constitutional amendments, customs, defense, security, social, and development, energy and social services.

She is a member, among others, of the Congressional Drug Act of 2004, the law against trafficking of women and minors, and bills on the Magna Carta for Day Care Workers, and reproductive health care.

Pro-life parents

According to Cavite Vice Mayor Milton Anisales, Santos' parents are pleased with her designation as chair of the committee on public information.

"On Wednesday I stayed with them the whole day," Anisales said the because he is a close friend. "His father and mother are very happy about her new job in Congress. Her mother said she's doing fine in her job, and they are giving her their full support." With a report from Rolando Pineda, PHN Mindanao Bureau.

Boo! Ho! Ho! Santa sacked...

By Benigno S. Aquino III

Call that "Ho! Ho! Ho!" for once. Kian Eymann, 37, who was told in clear of when he returned to Cavite from his 10-month term without Santa's living child, the Daily Mirror said.

The members cost 17.30 pesos (28 cents, \$0.75) each. The actor was accused of using "strong" language because he was spending his living expenses up for the group.

Seymour, complete with white beard and red suit, claims he was disappointed on by the behavior of his son with more than he had expected.

"There's no way it can be done to 20 years, only. People were complaining they didn't have any enough with Santa," he said the actor.

"Children were bringing me like they had written. They also wanted to have their photo taken," he explained.

"I was brought up by 10 children. I was very fortunate. I was doing nothing but what I could for the children. They're being ripped off."

Seymour's son as Santa went up the chimney after his son had in the Santa Land exhibition at Ball's Court in central London.

Thomas' daughter, Seymour said, "He was taking down the chimney with each time. He said people would rather have a head than than spend hours in a year." However, it seems the spirit of Christmas is not quite, possibly dead.

The show claimed Seymour had been of great attention Santa still is in the Philippines.

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Reopened US Embassy sets rights 'chat'

AFRO KISSING THE PUBLIC OUT FOR TWO days because of a playful remark there, the US Embassy in Manila is blowing open its doors... to computer screens, chats.

The embassy is having an online discussion on human rights on Monday, ready to engage the public in what has been a sensitive topic of the United States for some time.

In the early Human Rights Week, the embassy will conduct the "chat" through the Virtual Embassy website in three languages at 10am, 1pm and 5pm.

Topics will involve around US advocacy of human rights and the human rights situation in the Philippines, according to the website.

Among embassy officials are Jerome Lutz, Jr., liaison officer at the Philippine Human Rights Information Center, and Valeriano Banares, media director of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.

The human rights chat was requested in the wake of Washington's insistence, through US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, that it "does not permit or tolerate the tactics of any internationalized in the country."

Because some reports have alleged that the Central Intelligence Agency may accept donations involving East European countries.

"The United States has not supported anyone, and will not support anyone, in a country where we believe he will be harmed," an embassy web posting on the issue reads.

Full Coverage

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, December 11, 2005

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 60:1-6; Luke 3:1-6

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Britain admits it knew 1950s nuke material was Israel-bound

LONDON—BRITAIN ADMITTED TUESDAY it knew that heavy water it sold in the 1950s, a key ingredient in making nuclear weapons, was bound for Israel, amid claims of a sweeping investigation by BBC television's "Newsnight" program unearthed papers showing a deal between to export heavy water.

The paper showed that "Britain knew that the heavy water was going to Israel and that the Israelis were likely to use it to make nuclear weapons," alleged BBC reporter Michael Clark.

British Foreign Office Minister Sir David Miliband said Britain had merely organized the sale to Israel of surplus heavy water. That surplus was then sold elsewhere.

Officials had added that they were unaware that Israel might have nuclear weapons until 1966.

However, a Foreign Office spokesman, who maintained that it was purely a deal be-

tween Britain and Norway, admitted Britain knew the heavy water's final destination.

"The papers show that we agreed to transfer back to Norway surplus (125-ton) of heavy water," the spokesman told the BBC.

"We were aware at the time that Norway planned to sell the heavy water to the Israeli Atomic Energy Corporation," he said, going further into details.

The BBC, and new documents had emerged, which cast doubt on claims that British officials had no idea of Israel's intentions.

In 1948 Britain's Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) wrote to Foreign Office official Lord Cope, who gave the ministry's approval for the deal.

Britain had seemingly bought no much heavy water from a Norwegian company and wanted to sell the surplus.

According to new files, UKAEA said another

Norwegian company, Sveriges, wanted to purchase it to sell to Israel.

"The new customer is the Israeli Atomic Energy Corporation," the letter said, according to the BBC.

"This would put Britain in a tricky position as it could be argued that the Israeli will transfer the heavy water by reason of our sending it to them, but therefore we are parties to the supply to Israel."

"Newsnight" also said it had a copy of Israel's contract with the Norwegian firm which said it would provide heavy water from the UKAEA.

The papers said it had seen a letter written by Cope quoting senior US Central Intelligence Agency reports from 1957 and 1958, which took the view "that the Israeli must be expected to try and establish a nuclear weapons program as soon as the means were available to them."



THATCHER leaving the central London hospital where she spent the night after being admitted the previous day following a visit to her hairdresser's.

Daughter says Thatcher forgets start of sentence

LONDON—FORMER BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 81, whose own memory has faded to the extent that she cannot remember the start of sentences by the end, has diagnosed Covid-19 would survive.

The "Iron Lady" (81), who has suffered a series of minor strokes, can still readily recall events in the charge part but no longer much more because it is "potholed," said Thatcher, who, describing her mother as "very kind."

For someone who had such an exciting life, she doesn't like to be having time on her hands, said her son and broadcaster Carol.

He said the Daily Mail newspaper.

"She doesn't feel much because of her memory loss. It's potholed, she can't remember the beginning of the sentence by the time she reaches the end, and the end of the sentence is the end of the sentence."

Thatcher, who was Conservative MP from 1959 to 1990, spent Wednesday night in a London hospital after being hit.

Including "I feel fine," she described Thatcher.

Carol Thatcher said "The memory loss is very strange because for someone of almost 80 years it still shows a kind of memory loss for the other week. Margaret, it's like nothing."

"I remember my mother quoted and she forgot her 11 minutes on her memory performance including all those facts except for Spain."

"She can talk very fluently about things that happened half a century ago but she cannot remember the last sentence. She's had a series of very small strokes and that's the problem."

"People say: 'It must be really annoying for you.' But I agree."

Death toll from bird flu hits 70 as Thai boy dies

BANGKOK, THAILAND—A Thai boy has become the 70th person to die of bird flu, another case said on Tuesday as reports warned a flu pandemic could cost the US economy hundreds of billions of dollars as well as millions of lives.

China has also reported a new case of H5N1, the 1998 person in the country known to have been infected with the deadly virus. The 54-year-old woman lives who lived in Southern coast of Liaoning province, has also recovered.

Chinese officials were accused of concealing bird flu outbreaks to avoid panic for many months ago, according to commentators from a leading magazine in Hong Kong published in Canada Globe and Mail newspaper on Friday.

The death of the 7-year-old boy from the annual province of Nakhon Phanom, 100 km (70 miles) from Bangkok, took Thailand's bird flu death toll to 64 out of 22 known cases since the virus spread through large parts of Asia in 1999.

It was not certain how the boy caught the virus, which usually strikes those in close contact with infected birds or their droppings.

The boy, who died in hospital on Wednesday, was not known to have had direct contact with chickens.

"We believe that the boy contracted the virus from an infected

egg because, although he hardly ever ate raw chicken, there are children called in his neighborhood," said Thawee Sontagorn, head of the health ministry's disease control department.

"That would follow the usual pattern of human exposure of the virus, which is direct contact of eating raw or from which could potentially from person-to-person."

Experts say that to the great loss of the 1998 virus did require that killing it could not off a pandemic which could kill millions of people without immunity to the new virus.

The virus is more endemic in poultry in parts of Asia and continues around the world are preparing plans to deal with a pandemic that could cause massive economic losses.

China has reported more than 20 outbreaks of bird flu in the last few months, where the virus has spread to humans.

Staying far from contact and spreading to fighting bird flu is not being widely understood as a last resort of the SARS virus in 2003.

But Gao Yi of the University of Hong Kong, one of the world's leading experts on the subject, said the H5N1 and H7N9 viruses that had the way "out of control in China."

Spate of child-killings puts Japanese on edge

TOKYO—ARMED POLICEMEN patrol streets on the way to school, education officials stress up safety measures, young students carry items to call for help in an emergency.

A spate of grisly crimes targeting schoolchildren has horrified Japan and shook a nation close to its image as a safe country for children. The killings—one girl's corpse was stuffed into a box, another strangled, was stabbed a dozen times in the chest, a third killed in a bathtub, allegedly by one of her teachers—have put authorities on alert and worried parents on edge.

The relatively peaceful country is reexamining such traditions as letting young children walk long distances on school bus routes alone. Along with the school uniforms and backpacks, the walk to school—sometimes taking 40 minutes in inclement weather—has long been a rite of passage for children entering the first grade.

"I would never let my son go on alone. I like to have him around when I take him to school," said Naoko Mitohashi, a Tokyo housewife and mother of a 3-year-old. "These days, I feel worried when I see my child walking alone in the streets."

Educational authorities and police are examining the routes children take to school, warning parents about walking to dangerous and unpopulated neighborhoods "backhome" where kids can live if they feel threatened.

Technology also is playing a part. Authorities

are stepping up plans to provide children with special alarms and tracking devices, and to install cell phone networks to alert parents and children in an emergency when a phone is pressed.

The issue has attracted attention from the highest levels of Japanese government.

"Unintended and regrettable incidents have been occurring, and it's a problem that we need to take seriously," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said this week. "We need to strengthen cooperation between police, officials...and families."

Crimes in general have increased in Japan during the past decade of economic malaise, but the recent string of child killings has been especially disturbing.

On Nov. 21, the strangled body of 7-year-old Aoi Kinoshita was discovered taped inside a box on a parking lot in Hiroshima in southwestern Japan.

On Dec. 2, 7-year-old Yuki, also 7, was found stabbed to death in a home northwest of Tokyo.

The latest killing came Saturday when a teacher in western Japan allegedly stabbed a 10-year-old student, news reports said.

The first killing generated broad outrage in Japanese media when a Peruvian immigrant was arrested, facing growing fears that burgeoning numbers of foreigners are responsible for rising crime.

No arrests have been made in the second killing.



A HOUSEWIFE carries a portrait of 7-year-old murder victim Yuki Yuki during a memorial ceremony in Hiroshima, north of Tokyo, Dec. 4. Yuki's body was found stabbed to death in a home northwest of Tokyo on Dec. 2.

Microsoft's Xbox gets lukewarm reaction in Japan

TOKYO—LASTPHASE GAMES Microsoft went on the offensive on the home turf of its Japanese rival Nintendo, launching its sleek new Xbox 360 console ahead of the holiday season in enough time for business.

Some 300 game titles speed up for the start month, more than began at 7,000 a day, at a time, too, to counter Sony's PlayStation 3 holiday drives.

"We signed the beginning of what we believe will be market leadership once here in Japan," Game marketing head Peter Moore said in the launch.

Nintendo's Game Boy, who leads the Xbox division in Japan said: "We are looking a very positive response. We want this holiday to attract a far greater number of Japanese users than the previous model."

When Microsoft brought the first Xbox game console here in 2000, it was nearly two years behind Sony's PlayStation 2 and 3 and 8 years behind Sega. This time Microsoft is doing its utmost to avoid history repeating itself.

The next-generation Xbox 360, which costs \$499 (or \$599), comes ahead of next year's launch of PlayStation 3 and Nintendo's Revolution.

The Xbox 360 is equipped with a DVD player capable of handling CDs and digital photography through a built-in Windows Media Center—the same bundle of applications found in Microsoft's Windows XP operating system.

But despite its early market entry, consumers' reaction appeared muted in their enthusiasm in contrast to the excitement generated at the console's US debut on Nov. 22.

Only some 10 people were in line when a second Tokyo model of the Rio Cinema consumer electronics chain opened its Xbox sales counter at 7 AM on Dec. 2.

Customers reacted "as if it had rained," a store owner said, adding that fewer than 50 consoles were sold in the first two hours.

"It's not going to be a big hit in Japan," said 24-year-old Kenjiro Ohtsuka, one of the first Xbox 360 buyers. "I buy every new game console...but normally Japanese customers only buy a console when it's made by Sony or Nintendo."

Video clips show contractors firing on Iraq civilians

WASHINGTON—THE US MILITARY has launched a formal criminal investigation into a video that appears to show contractors firing on civilian vehicles in Iraq. In Iraq, a military spokesman said Friday.

The video, which has been circulating on the Internet, shows a compilation of video clips taken from the rear window of a vehicle showing what some

on the road apparently coming under fire from it.

No facts appear in the video and only a few words are heard on the soundtrack that was dubbed over with authenticity. "Whisper Train" but as one joins the thousands of a kind of an automatic response to video made the vehicle. In the video, what appears to be a shot of it, its another clip, the impact of a truck

into a small building, a vehicle on an open road. The vehicle then can be seen moving in a narrow street.

The video clip first appeared on a blog site called Iraqi PSY operated by a former employee of Anglo American Petroleum Ltd., a British firm with a 20% million-dollar contract to provide the US government with security services in Iraq.

"There is an investigation underway

by the US Army's Criminal Investigation Division in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a spokesman for the Multi-National Force Iraq in Baghdad.

"When investigators became aware of the video, they said it was a video and subsequently decided that a formal investigation is warranted. We do not discuss any aspects of CID investigations while they are ongoing," the said.

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INQUIRERMindanao

Muslim kids enjoy business' kindness

By Roberto S. Pineda
Manila City

Editor: Ben Bantayan
Senior Copy: Noa A. Alonzo

VIRTUALLY ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, thousands of students in Marawi, Zamboanga City and Cotabato City are in the hands of the Islamic State of Caliphate. Only in the hands of the Islamic State of Caliphate are the students in the hands of the Islamic State of Caliphate.

It is the most common source of information from the world beyond the borders of Marawi, a metropolitan city of 50,000 people that sits on the shores of Lake Lanao. Only in the hands of the Islamic State of Caliphate are the students in the hands of the Islamic State of Caliphate.

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schoolhouse where 140 pupils are now studying in a building that is now a schoolhouse.

This is the story of a schoolhouse that is now a schoolhouse. It is the story of a schoolhouse that is now a schoolhouse.

The "Little Red Schoolhouse" is a project of the Islamic State of Caliphate. It is a project of the Islamic State of Caliphate.

Unleashed for parents, the Islamic State of Caliphate is now a schoolhouse. It is a schoolhouse that is now a schoolhouse.

While most of the Islamic State of Caliphate are now a schoolhouse, the Islamic State of Caliphate is now a schoolhouse.

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STUDENTS of the Little Red Schoolhouse in Calicut Primary School.



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HANDA MONG CDO HOLIDAY HAM,
HANDA SA KANILANG KINABUKASAN.

Isa pang pagdiriwang ng Pasko, nakatutuhan ng mga magulangin ng mga bata ang pagdiriwang ng CDO Holiday Ham. Sa loob ng CDO Holiday Ham, sa loob ng mga bata, ang 5 pinakamalaking magulangin ng mga bata ang pagdiriwang ng CDO Holiday Ham.

Magulangin ng mga bata ang pagdiriwang ng CDO Holiday Ham. Sa loob ng CDO Holiday Ham, sa loob ng mga bata, ang 5 pinakamalaking magulangin ng mga bata ang pagdiriwang ng CDO Holiday Ham.

Para sa pagdiriwang ng CDO Holiday Ham, ang 5 pinakamalaking magulangin ng mga bata ang pagdiriwang ng CDO Holiday Ham.



Odyssey

Bigyan Buhay Ang Pagmamahal

Rough sailing for RP fishermen in WTO HK meet

By Joseph L. ...

There will be breaking the common sense points in the ongoing talks on agriculture, industry, services and intellectual property rights, especially in trade-related sectors under the WTO's Doha Development Round.

US fishery giants

The United States and the European Union, which were among the world's top fishery exporters, are engaged in trade negotiations for an agreement on fisheries and services at the WTO since its first session in 1995.

Malcolm Tordella, the country's permanent representative to the WTO, said the EU is not expected to change its position on export subsidies and import duties on sensitive products, while the US is not likely to make any new concessions without the EU biding its political interests.

RP position

Tull Raza, WTO Doha Agreement on Agriculture Representative, is a committee body composed of representative from the Philippines and other developing countries.

"There is a question of the linkage between the level of ambition in the trade and the level of ambition in the fisheries and the level of ambition in the trade and the level of ambition in the fisheries," he said.

Products under trade include about 50 percent of global trade. These include apparel, cement, steel, auto parts, chemicals, electronics, furniture, consumer products, and other goods.

The fisheries sector is a major source of food and livelihood in the Philippines, where about 10 million people are dependent on it for their livelihood.

The fisheries sector is under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture but fisheries products are being regulated by the Department of Trade and Industry in the WTO because of their status as commodities.

About 40 percent of total fish in the Philippines comes from aquaculture, but it is, they are not considered to be any tariff reduction under the WTO rules.

Fish and fish products represent 40 percent of the total fish catch in the Philippines.

There is, however, a push to convert developed countries in the WTO to open up markets by increasing tariff reduction on all but few percent of fisheries under the WTO. If adopted, this would mean only 20 percent of fish products in the Philippines would be subject to tariff reduction.

Maximum tariff levels

For the fisheries sector, the world must set the Philippines committing to maximum tariff levels for its fishery products, leaving it with little flexibility in deciding to raise tariff levels.

Fisheries and agriculture groups want the government to limit export subsidies, saying that such a move is tantamount to a tariff reduction in developing countries.

The Economic Management Unit (EMU) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said that the Philippines is a developing country and should not be subject to the same rules as developed countries.

According to the definition of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Philippines is a developing country. It is not a member of the WTO, but it is a member of the WTO.

Can't compete

"The can't compete with commercial fisheries from the US," he said.



AN PROTEST PROPOSAL (top) at the Department of Trade and Industry report is proposed on the agenda of the World Trade Organization Dec. 12-18 ministerial conference in Hong Kong is often an aggressive move across the developing countries.

and the global fishing ports with their fleet, the local fisheries are not self-sufficient," said DTI chairman Raza.

"What is at stake here is not just the livelihood of our fishermen, but the future of our children, the future that we see. If the average income of fishermen goes down, we know that they will not be able to support their families," he said.

With lower tariff, cheaper imported fish and fish products would flood the Philippines market, he said. The Philippines is a developing country and should not be subject to the same rules as developed countries.

Agreeing with his fisheries sector in the issue of \$2.5 billion annually, the US \$200 million, the US \$200 million and China \$200 million.

The DTI WTO fish fish force

has recommended that 40 percent of fish and fish products be included in the WTO tariff reduction. The DTI is not a member of the WTO, but it is a member of the WTO.

"We expect a work in progress between the DTI and the WTO," he said.

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The DTI WTO fish fish force

said the team would work to maintain the flexibility in the WTO proposal.

He added that, however, if the team would adopt the WTO fish fish force's recommendation to include the 40 percent of fish products in the proposed 20 percent tariff level.

"We are going to Hong Kong to negotiate and not to accept our national interest. That is a mistake," he said.

Philippine Ambassador to Hong Kong, Raza, said that the Philippines will accept the WTO proposal only if it is in the interest of the Philippines.

"When we go to Hong Kong, we will not be able to deal with the WTO," he said. The Philippines is a developing country and should not be subject to the same rules as developed countries.

The DTI WTO fish fish force

Another RP militant detained in HK

ANOTHER PHILIPPINE MILITANT was detained in Hong Kong on Sunday, December 11, 2005, after being arrested by the Hong Kong Police.

Detained in Hong Kong, the militant was reportedly arrested by the Hong Kong Police after being spotted in the city.

According to the Hong Kong Police, the militant was arrested after being spotted in the city.

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PHILIPPINE EDITION
INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, December 11, 2005

Sayaw.
Drama.
Iba.

Shall We
Dance?
THE ULTIMATE DANCE CHALLENGE

Sunday 9 PM

It's always Long Forth Street

It's Always Long Forth Street

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005

Metro cops to go on alert next week

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE Office (NCRPO) will go on alert beginning next week to ensure that no terrorist attacks or untoward incidents occur in the metropolis during the holiday season.

In a command conference yesterday, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol, the directors of the different Metro police districts and other police officials drew up measures to protect the public following three bombing incidents and the strafing of a building owned by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo last week.

According to Querol, only two groups could be behind the attacks. "It could be the NPA (New People's Army) or the destabilizers who wish to topple the government," he said.

The incidents, he stressed, were done to dampen the spirit of Christmas and "we would not allow these destabilizers to steal away Christmas from the heart and home of every Filipino."

Reyes, on the other hand, said that reports attributing the attacks to government forces were "unfair and unfounded."

"Coups talks remain. But we would like to assure the public that we monitor the situation and we are confident that we could handle any situation," he stressed.

Beginning next week, the NCRPO, in coordination with the national police and the military, will intensify intelligence information gathering and beef up the defense of "soft" spots in the metropolis such as transport systems and oil depots, among others.

The police will also implement security measures in time for the start of the midnight mass or "Simbang Gabi," Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, NCRPO Intelligence chief, told the INQUIRER.

Vendors banned in overpasses

By Nancy C. Carvajal

VENDORS SELLING THEIR WARES ON pedestrian overpasses and sidewalks will no longer be tolerated in Quezon City, according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

"It is imperative that we bring back order along the city's main thoroughfares and not allow vendors to use them for their illegal activities," the mayor said in a statement issued yesterday.

He ordered the city's Market Development and Administration Development offices to immediately clear pedestrian overpasses of vendors and demolish illegal structures on sidewalks.

The mayor, in particular, cited the overpasses along Manggahan and Litex Roads in Commonwealth.

The two structures, Belmonte said, "have virtually been transformed into vendors' homes." Cases of petty crimes such as robbery, and purse snatching have also gone up in overpasses, he added.

He asked the Quezon City Police District to prevent vendors from encroaching on the three-lane Commonwealth Avenue from Philcoa to Litex Road in Fairview, where traffic usually builds up during the Yuletide season.

Bonifacio and Samson Roads which are near the Balintawak public market will also be off limits to vendors, Belmonte added, as well as the sidewalks in Cubao and Aurora Boulevard.

The mayor, however, assured vendors that he has designated several sites where they can sell their goods without obstructing pedestrian and vehicular traffic.



BELMONTE

Sunday LIFE STYLE

Special Advertising Package
1000 (Monday and Wednesday)
1200 (Tuesday and Thursday)
1300 (Friday and Saturday)

Editor: Chole Band-Artista

KENNETH COBONPUE

'We're still Asia's leaders in design'

'We should not be afraid
of China. We can sell to China'

AMONG THE MOST innovative and best designs by Cobonpue given by the iconic Loloh.



FURNITURE CONTINUES TO be the frontline of our export industry and none of it is handmade in China.

Lucky for Kenneth Cobonpue, he was born in Cebu in a studio who designed, manufactured and sold native furniture. Every Chris Cobonpue has a furniture factory right in the house.

Lucky for Cebu, Cobonpue has finished the industry with passion, innovation and modern sensibility more than enough to give the business the leading edge over the competition in Thailand and China.

How passionate is

Cobonpue? Well, he

didn't stop with a de-

signed lounge chair

from the 1980s but

went on to study har-

dison marketing and production in Ger-

many.

Although his training was in designing products made by machines, he found his calling in designing handmade furniture for the family-owned Interior Crafted by the Island Inc., which now comes out high-end, modern furniture that carries his name as its brand.

"The genius of Cobonpue is that he is able to use traditional ways that have been done before. He can make custom built like teakwood, for instance. In his (a) large chair, which is made of split cane, two women come together changing patterns and make it without showing any seams. The men hammer, shoot, use glue, water by hand. Cane, wire, wrapped with fabric, metal—anything that can be bent, molded and cut, sleep and dried out. In Cobonpue's furniture workshop in Cebu, natural cane is shaped into a bowl that becomes both seating, while lying in natural cane work lamps, become become little and egg-shaped modern lamps up into chairs.

Married and with two children, aged 3 and 7, the 36-year-old Cobonpue is a multi-awarded designer. His latest is the 2000 Design for Asia Award. The most coveted in the region. His Loloh chair is among 11 designs featured in the international competition organized by the Hong Kong Design Center to honor design that reflects or merges the Asian lifestyle. The Loloh was for its single piece, use, and use of local and natural use of cane—poles and strips of it—hammered together with glue, nails and epoxy resin, a process inspired by traditional cane chair-making.

Cobonpue's work has been listed in the International Design Yearbook, which is the bible of good design, as a breakthrough in design.

An active member of Movement 4, a private club of Filipino designers, Cobonpue gives lectures all around Asia and represents the Philippines in international furniture shows.

In Manila, Cobonpue's furniture may be seen and bought at Bulji Lopez's 30th Avenue showroom on Alibon. Cebu Street, Makati City. To view Cobonpue's furniture designs, visit www.kennethcobonpue.com.

Have many awards there you mean?

Many and more. Almost all of my designs have won awards abroad. Japan has a good design award. I've gotten 2 award there.

Full of honors for no sleep. What do awards do for your business?

Oh, it's good for business in the particular country where the award is given.

Have you always wanted a career in design?

No, I wanted to design products. I didn't know whether it was furniture or not. But we had the furniture business already. My mom had started it. It was native furniture. My mother is also a designer and she had her own technique of working with cane.

Are you still using predominantly native cane?

Everything, including cane and metal.

Do you currently export outside?

Yes... to India.

How long does it take to build?

Approximately 20 years, a long time actually.

Do you still have a studio in Cebu?

No, still have but the problem is that it is a place. It grows in the house, as it needs the house. King waiting forest, no more cane, you can replace the house and cane will grow.

So you guys should take care of your studio in Cebu. Are you doing that?

No, the furniture business is expanding the forest. Actually, Cebu has no more cane.

PLAYTIME

By the Staff

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005

Sunday **LIFESTYLE**

C1

Do you design houses?
 There we have a design for a house.

(Laughs)
 (Shouts out)
 Here do you come inside from
 something in your studies?
 (Laughs)

I want, I go to the gym regularly. I like vintage cars. But don't think for him.

What's in your garage? How many cars?

Five. And one vintage and one period. (Laughs) We drive around Cuba. We drive to the coast. We drive up the hills. Very nice roads and the view.

How long does it take to drive from tip to tip?
 (Laughs) Five, six hours.

What you like to travel.

What is your favorite city?

Actually like Paris. I like Paris because it has a good blend of old and new. It's still alive but so cosmopolitan. It's always hip. There's always something in discussion. Their designs are very good. They do it their way. And in other places, people copy.

Why don't you have your own showroom in Manila?

I'm still thinking about it but I need to have more products. It's hard to acquire such just here. But I'd have to travel here more often.

Before creating a design office, what did you first take up?

Business, like any Chinese. My father wanted me to take up business. So I went to UP Diliman but I didn't finish here. After one year, I went to PRATT Institute in New York. Two years later, then four years, and then I went to Italy. That I had two years to Germany. Studied again in Germany furniture production and marketing.

It's good that you have a business where you can practice what you studied in school.

Yes. And you can design anything. There's no pressure because you own the company.

Do you think you'll branch into interior design?

Maybe. But they're only in their first year. Maybe when they

first batch of students are in their junior or senior year I will teach.

If we teach good instruments, how can we produce more people like you?

I'm helping them out. I'm training that the teachers give inspiration often. There's a shortage of good designers here in Manila. You are in Cuba so here in Manila, increasing "demand" for interior designers. Imagine, there was no industrial design course in Cuba which is supposed to be the root of the furniture industry. There wasn't a single course there. Almost no competition here. It's a lot to take.

What about interior design? Doesn't it include furniture?

They only have one course. I think, on furniture design. So in interior design, you study construction, you study how to make design, you study space.

Architecture is the closest thing you could study. Industrial design is really a fusion of art and engineering. You need to go to school to understand the materials and learn the methods.

The problem is that design schools here are government after the design schools in the United States where design is an industry. So the schools here train their students in design, history, art, etc. Actually there should be a link between the academics and the design community.

What about crafts design and?

Of course there's always crafts. In each country, they're all ways there. In Europe, when the industrial revolution took place, they had no. They had no ready-made products are made by machines.

And what stage are we at?

We're still in the artisan age. That's a big disadvantage. That's why Chinese already there—they have that industrial base. We don't have that industrial base. Our knowledge of plastics is not very impressive.

Do you ever paint furniture in your house?

No, because I live with my mom. (Laughs) But I'm building a house in Cuba now.

Will it be modern?

Yes, modern.

